



## Latino voters are coveted by both major parties



The exterior of the Phoenix studio of La Campesina, a Spanish-language radio network founded by farm labor organizer Cesar Chavez in the 1980s, is seen Thursday, March 21, 2024.

By **CHRISTINE FERNANDO and ANITA SNOW**

**Associated Press**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — As ranchera music filled the Phoenix recording studio at Radio Campesina, a station personality spoke in Spanish into the microphone.

"Friends of Campesina, in these

elections, truth and unity are more important than ever," said morning show host Tony Arias. "Don't let yourself be trapped by disinformation."

The audio was recorded as a promo for Radio Campesina's new campaign aiming to empower Latino voters ahead of the 2024 elec-

tions. That effort includes discussing election-related misinformation narratives and fact-checking conspiracy theories on air.

"We are at the front lines of fighting misinformation in our communities," said María Barquín, program director of Chavez Radio Group, the nonprofit that runs Radio Campesi-

**Associated Press**  
na, a network of Spanish-language stations in Arizona, California and Nevada. "There's a lot at stake in 2024 for our communities. And so we need to amp up these efforts now more than ever."

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# Latino voters are coveted by both major parties

Continued from Front

Latinos have grown at the second-fastest rate, behind Asian Americans, of any major racial and ethnic group in the U.S. since the last presidential election, according to a Pew Research Center analysis, and are projected to account for 14.7%, or 36.2 million, of all eligible voters in November, a new high. They are a growing share of the electorate in several presidential and congressional battleground states, including Arizona, California and Nevada, and are being heavily courted by Republicans and Democrats.

Democratic President Joe Biden has credited Latino voters as a key reason he defeated Republican Donald Trump in 2020 and is urging them to help him do it again in November. Given the high stakes of a presidential election year, experts expect a surge of misinformation, especially through audio and video, targeting Spanish-speaking voters. "Latinos have immense voting power and can make a decisive difference in elections, yet they are an under-messaged, under-prioritized audience," said Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund, a national nonprofit encouraging Latino civic participation. "Our vote has an impact. These bad actors know this, and one way to influence the Latino vote is to misinform."

In addition to radio, much of the news and information Latinos consume is audio-based through podcasts or on social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube. Content moderation efforts in Spanish are limited on these platforms, which are seeing a rising number of right-wing influencers peddling election falsehoods and QAnon conspiracy theories.

The types of misinformation overlap with falsehoods readily found in other conservative media and many corners of the internet — conspiracy theories about mail voting, dead people casting ballots, rigged voting machines and threats at



Staff members Michael Ruiz, left, and Marisol Moraga participate in a phone bank event at La Campesina, a Spanish-language radio network in Phoenix, Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Associated Press

polling sites.

Other narratives are more closely tailored to Latino communities, including false information about immigration, inflation and abortion rights, often exploiting the traumas and fears of specific communities. For example, Spanish speakers who have immigrated from countries with recent histories of authoritarianism, socialism, high inflation and election fraud may be more vulnerable to misinformation about those topics.

Misinformation on the airwaves also is particularly difficult to track and combat compared with more traditional, text-based misinformation, said Daiquiri Ryan Mercado, strategic legal adviser and policy counsel for the National Hispanic Media Coalition, which runs the Spanish Language Disinformation Coalition. While misinformation researchers can more easily code programs to categorize and track text-based misinformation, audio often requires manual listening. Radio stations that air only in certain areas at certain times also can be difficult to track.

"When we have such limited representation, Spanish speakers feel like they can connect to these people, and they become trusted messengers," Mercado said. "But some people may take advantage of that trust."

Mercado and others said that's why trusted messengers, such as Radio Campesina, are so important. The station was founded by Mexican American labor and civil rights leader César Chavez and has built a loyal listening base over decades. At any given moment, as many as 750,000 people are listening to the Chavez Radio Network on the air and online, Barquín said. "They will come and listen to us because of the music, but our main focus is to empower and educate through information," she said. "The music is just a tactic to bring them in."

Radio Campesina's on-air talent and musical guests often discuss misinformation on air, answering listeners' questions about voting, teaching them about spotting misinformation and doing tutorials on election processes such as how to submit mail-in ballots. The station also has hosted rodeos and music events to register new voters and talk about misinformation.

They allow listeners to call or text questions on WhatsApp, a social media platform especially popular with immigrant communities but where much of the misinformation they see festers. In March, the station partnered with Mi Familia Vota, a Latino advocacy group, for an on-air show and voter

phone bank event to answer voter questions.

"We know that there are many people who are unmotivated because sometimes we come from countries where, when it comes to elections, we don't trust the vote," said Carolina Rodriguez-Greer, Arizona director of Mi Familia Vota, before she shared information on the show about how voters can track their ballots.

The organization began working with Spanish media outlets to dispel misinformation after seeing candidates such as former Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake spread election lies in 2022, Rodriguez-Greer said. Lake is now running for the U.S. Senate with Trump's endorsement.

"One way to combat this misinformation is to fill the airways with good information," said Angelica Razo, national deputy director of campaigns and programs for Mi Familia Vota.

In Tempe, Brian Garcia tunes into Radio Campesina on drives to work. When he was growing up, the station played as his dad cooked dinner and his family gathered around the table. It was a staple for his family, he said, and he's excited about its efforts to tackle election misinformation.

"There aren't many organizations or folks that go onto

Spanish language media to combat misinformation and disinformation," he said. "And I think serving as a resource and a trusted source within the Latino community that has already built those relationships, that trust will go a long way."

A variety of other community and media groups also are prioritizing the seemingly never-ending fight against misinformation.

Maritza Félix often fact-checked misinformation for her mother, whom she calls the "Queen of WhatsApp." This led to Félix doing the same for family and friends in a WhatsApp group that grew into the Spanish news nonprofit Conecta Arizona. It now runs a radio show and newsletter that debunks false claims about election processes, health, immigration and border politics. Conecta Arizona also combats misinformation about the upcoming Mexican presidential election that Félix said has been seeping over the border.

Jeronimo Cortina, associate professor of political science at the University of Houston, tracks broad misinformation narratives aimed at Spanish-speaking communities across the country but also localized content targeting the state's rapidly growing Latino electorate. That includes misinformation about candidates' clean energy policies taking away jobs in Texas' oil and gas industries and about migrants flooding over the border.

"You won't see the same content targeting Latinos in Texas compared to Latinos in Iowa," he said.

This has led to a wider universe of groups tackling misinformation aimed at Latinos. NALEO Educational Fund's Defiende La Verdad campaign monitors misinformation and trains community leaders to spot it. In Florida, the We Are Más podcast combats Spanish-language misinformation nationally and locally, said its founder Evelyn Pérez-Verdía. Jolt Action, a Texas Latino advocacy group, registers new voters and helps them make sense of misinformation. □



# Justice Department blasts GOP effort to hold Attorney General Garland in contempt over Biden audio

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Justice Department on Monday blasted Republicans' effort to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt over his refusal to turn over unredacted materials related to the special counsel probe into President Joe Biden's handling of classified documents.

In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, the Justice Department rejected the demand from House Republicans that the agency turn over the full audio of Special Counsel Robert Hur's hours-long interviews with Biden and his ghostwriter. Republicans had given the Justice Department until Monday to provide the audio.

Assistant Attorney General Carlos Uriarte, the Justice Department's head of congressional affairs, said in the letter to Reps. James Comer and Jim Jordan that despite GOP claims to the contrary, the department has complied with each of the four elements of the subpoena that House Republicans sent in February.

"The Committees' reaction is difficult to explain in terms of any lack of information or frustration of any informational or investigative imperative, given the Department's actual con-



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during a news conference at Department of Justice headquarters in Washington, March 21, 2024.

duct," Uriarte wrote. "We are therefore concerned that the Committees are disappointed not because you didn't receive information, but because you did." He added, "We urge the Committees to avoid conflict rather than seek it." The pushback from the department and the seeming unwillingness to provide the audio could trigger a legal battle between the White House and the GOP chairmen leading the contempt effort on Capitol Hill, potentially setting up a scenario

where Biden would have to exert executive privilege to halt the release of the audio recording to Congress. The maneuvering could also delay the release of any audio until after the November election. The letter is just the latest flashpoint between Republicans investigating Biden and the Justice Department tasked with overseeing a myriad of politically fraught federal probes, including one into the president's son, Hunter Biden. Hur spent a year investigat-

ing the improper retention of classified documents by Biden, from his time as a senator and as vice president. The result was a 345-page report that questioned Biden's age and mental competence but recommended no criminal charges for the 81-year-old president, finding insufficient evidence to make a case stand up in court. Last month, Hur stood by the assessment made in his report in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, where he was grilled

for more than four hours by both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

"What I wrote is what I believe the evidence shows, and what I expect jurors would perceive and believe," Hur told lawmakers. "I did not sanitize my explanation. Nor did I disparage the president unfairly."

If GOP lawmakers follow through with their threat to hold Garland in contempt, it would require majority support in committee and then the support of the full House before a referral would be sent to the Justice Department. It is unlikely that the department that Garland heads would take up a referral to investigate the Cabinet official.

The last time such an effort was successful was in 2012 when a Republican-controlled House voted to make then-Attorney General Eric Holder the first sitting Cabinet member to be held in contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over documents in the gun-running operation known as Operation Fast and Furious. At the time, Republicans cited the Justice Department's failure to turn over, without any preconditions, documents related to the risky operation. The Justice Department took no action to prosecute the attorney general. □

Associated Press

## A man accused of setting a fire outside Bernie Sanders' office stayed at an area hotel for weeks

By LISA RATHKE

Associated Press

The man charged with setting a fire outside the Vermont office of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders had been staying at an area hotel for nearly two months and was spotted outside Sanders' office the day before and the day of the fire, according to court paperwork filed by a federal agent.

Shant Michael Soghomonian, 35, who was previously from Northridge, California, entered the building on Friday and went to Sanders' third-floor office where security video showed him

dumping a liquid on the bottom of the door and setting it afire with a lighter, according to the special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The building's interior suffered some damage from the fire and sprinklers that doused the area with water, but no one was hurt. Sanders, an independent, was not in the office at the time. Seven employees working in the office at the time were unharmed and able to evacuate. The agent who investigated spotted what appeared to be the remains

of a canister of lighter fluid and a red cap on the floor near the office door. Soghomonian was arrested Sunday on a charge of using fire to damage a building used in interstate commerce, according to the U.S. attorney for Vermont. He had been staying at the Inn at Burlington in South Burlington for several weeks, an employee told authorities, according to the affidavit.

When police knocked on the hotel room door, they heard a male saying he was getting dressed, according to an application



Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., addresses union workers in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, April 5, 2024.

Associated Press

to search the hotel room and a vehicle with New York plates. Officers then heard what sounded like the man dragging heavy items near the door. Officers got a key and at-

tempted to open the door but it was blocked, according to the court document. They forced the door open and arrested Soghomonian without incident, they said. □



# New York appeals judge rejects Donald Trump's request to delay his April 15 hush money trial

By **MICHAEL R. SISK,**  
**JAKE OFFENHARTZ and**  
**JENNIFER PELTZ**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York appeals court judge on Monday rejected Donald Trump's bid to delay his April 15 hush money criminal trial while he fights to move the case out of Manhattan — foiling the former president's latest attempt to put off the historic trial.

Justice Lizbeth González of the state's mid-level appeals court made her ruling after an emergency hearing where Trump's lawyers asked to postpone the trial indefinitely while they seek a change of venue. Trump was seeking an emergency stay, a court order that would prevent the trial from starting on time.

The hush money trial is the first of Trump's his four criminal indictments slated to go to trial and would be the first criminal trial ever of a former president.

Trump lawyer Emil Bove argued that the presumptive Republican nominee faces "real potential prejudice" as a defendant in heavily Democratic Manhattan. Citing defense surveys and a review of media coverage, Bove argued that jury selection, scheduled to start next Monday, "cannot proceed in a fair manner."

Trump has suggested on social media that the trial should be moved to Staten Island, the only New York City borough he won in 2016 and 2020.

Steven Wu, appellate chief for the Manhattan district attorney's office, noted that trial Judge Juan M. Merchan had already rejected Trump's requests to move or delay the trial as untimely. "The question in this case is not whether a random poll of New Yorkers from whatever neighborhood are able to be impartial, it's about whether a trial court is able to select a jury of 12 impartial jurors," Wu said. He blamed Trump for stoking pretrial publicity with "countless media appearances talking about the facts of this case, the wit-



**Judge Juan M. Merchan poses in his chambers in New York, Thursday, March 14, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

nesses, and so on."

In a separate appellate matter, Trump's lawyers are also challenging a gag order imposed on him in the case, which Merchan recently expanded to prohibit Trump from making comments about the judge's family. The appeals court signaled it would take up that matter at a later date. Paperwork relating to Trump's appeals were placed under seal and not publicly available.

Trump had pledged to ap-

peal after Merchan ruled last month that the trial would begin April 15. His lawyers had pleaded to delay the trial at least until summer to give them more time to review late-arriving evidence from a prior federal investigation into the matter.

Merchan, who had already moved the trial from its original March 25 start date because of the evidence issue, said no further delays were warranted.

Trump's lawyers filed their appeals Monday on two

separate court dockets. One was styled as a lawsuit against Merchan, a legal mechanism allowing them to challenge his rulings.

In New York, judges can be sued over some judicial decisions under a state law known as Article 78. Trump has used the tactic before, including against the judge in his civil fraud case in an unsuccessful last-minute bid to delay that case last fall.

In this case, he is accused of falsifying his company's records to hide the nature

of payments to his former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen, who helped him bury negative stories during his 2016 campaign. Cohen's activities included paying porn actor Stormy Daniels \$130,000 to suppress her claims of an extramarital sexual encounter with Trump years earlier.

Trump pleaded not guilty last year to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. He has denied having a sexual encounter with Daniels. His lawyers argue the payments to Cohen were legitimate legal expenses.

Trump's move Monday is the latest escalation in his battles with Merchan.

Trump assailed the judge on social media after he imposed a gag order last month barring Trump from making public statements about jurors, witnesses and others connected the case. After Trump's complaints, Merchan expanded the gag order to include members of his own family.

Last week, Trump renewed his request for the judge to step aside from the case, citing Merchan's daughter's work as the head of a firm whose clients have included his rival President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and other Democrats. □

## 3 dead, including suspect, after shooting inside Las Vegas law office, police say

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A shooting Monday inside a law office in the affluent Summerlin neighborhood of Las Vegas left three people dead, including the shooter, police said.

Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahon said at a news conference that investigators believe the shooter killed himself.

"I want to make sure our community understands there is no further threat," he said.

McMahon said the victims were a man and a woman. The names of the dead have not been released.



**Law enforcement responds to a shooting Monday, April 8, 2024 at a law office in Las Vegas.**

**Associated Press**

According to McMahon, the shooting was reported just

after 10 a.m. at a law office on the fifth floor of a mid-rise office building in the master-planned community. He did not say if the shooter knew the victims or whether the victims were employees of the law office.

The sheriff said police officers were still working to clear the building and evacuate the people sheltered inside, while investigators were searching the shooter's vehicle in the office building's parking garage.

Summerlin spans roughly 13 miles (21 kilometers) along the city's western edge, about 30 minutes west of the Las Vegas Strip. □



## Iran's foreign minister accuses U.S. of giving Israel 'green light' to attack consulate in Syria

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and  
ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** —

Iran's foreign minister Monday accused the United States of giving Israel the "green light" for a strike on its consulate building in Syria that killed seven Iranian military officials including two generals.

Hossein Amirabdollahian reiterated Tehran's vows that it will respond to the attack, widely blamed on Israel, that appeared to signify an escalation of Israel's targeting of military officials from Iran, which supports militant groups fighting Israel in Gaza, and along its border with Lebanon.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in an address Monday reiterated the Iran-backed group's support for a Tehran military response to the attack that killed Gen. Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a senior military official in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force, and worsened fears of the war spiraling into the rest of the Middle East.

Since the war in Gaza be-



In this photo released on the official Telegram page of the Syrian Presidency, Syrian President Bashar Assad, right, welcomes Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian before their meeting in Damascus, Syria, Monday, April 8, 2024.

Associated Press

gan six months ago, clashes have increased between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Hamas, which rules Gaza and attacked Israel on Oct. 7, is also backed by Iran, as well as an umbrella group of Iraqi militias targeting U.S. military bases

and positions in Syria and Iraq.

Though Israel has regularly conducted strikes targeting Iranian military officials and allies, Zahedi's death was the most significant blow for Tehran since a U.S. drone targeted and killed

Quds Force chief Gen. Qasim Soleimani in 2020 in Baghdad.

"I'd like to say with a very loud voice from here in Damascus that America has a responsibility in what happened and must be held responsible," Amirabdol-

lahian told reporters in Damascus during a visit where he met his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mekdad, who condemned both the strike and Israel's offensive in Gaza. Amirabdollahian also met President Bashar Assad, with whom he discussed Gaza and the wider situation in the region, a statement from Assad's office said.

The Iranian foreign minister, who earlier that day inaugurated the opening of a new consular section in a nearby building, justified his claims by saying that Washington and "two European countries" did not condemn the attack on the diplomatic building.

The Biden administration has insisted that it had no advance knowledge of the airstrike. Washington is Israel's vital military ally.

Israel, which rarely acknowledges strikes against Iranian targets, said it had no comment on the strike in the Syrian capital. However, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said last week that the U.S. has assessed Israel was responsible. □

## 'Panama Papers' trial starts. 27 people charged in the worldwide money laundering case

**PANAMA CITY (AP)** — The trial of 27 people charged in connection with the worldwide "Panama Papers" money laundering started Monday in a Panamanian criminal court.

Those on trial include the owners of the Mossack-Fonseca law firm that was at the heart of the 2016 massive document leak.

The Panama Papers include a collection of 11 million secret financial documents that illustrate how some of the world's richest people hide their money. The repercussions of the leaks have been far-ranging, prompting the resignation of the prime minister of Iceland and bringing scrutiny to the leaders of Argen-

tina and Ukraine, Chinese politicians and Russian President Vladimir Putin, among others.

The often-delayed trial opened Monday, with lawyers Juergen Mossack, Ramón Fonseca and other ex-employees of the firm facing money laundering charges.

Mossack was present in the courtroom; lawyers for Fonseca said he was in a hospital in Panama.

The case centers on allegations the firm set up shell companies to acquire properties in Panama with money from a sprawling corruption scheme in Brazil known as the Car Wash, or Lava Jato in Portuguese.

Fonseca has said the firm,

which closed in 2018, had no control over how its clients might use offshore vehicles created for them.

Both Mossack and Fonseca have Panamanian citizenship, and Panama does not extradite its own citizens.



The Supreme Court stands in Panama City, Monday, April 8, 2024 as the trial starts for those charged in connection with the worldwide "Panama Papers" money laundering case.

Associated Press

The two were acquitted on other charges in 2022.

The records were first leaked to the German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and were shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which began publishing collaborative reports with news organizations in 2016. U.S. federal prosecutors have alleged that Mossack Fonseca conspired to circumvent American laws to maintain the wealth of its clients and conceal tax dollars owed to the IRS. They alleged the scheme dates to 2000 and involved sham foundations and shell companies in Panama, Hong Kong and the British Virgin Islands. □



# Ethnic guerrillas in Myanmar look set to seize an important town on the Thai border from military

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Guerilla fighters from Myanmar's Karen ethnic minority claimed Monday to be close to seizing control of a major trading town bordering Thailand, as soldiers and civil servants loyal to the military government appeared to be preparing to abandon their positions. The occupation of Myawaddy town by the Karen National Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Karen National Union, or KNU, appeared imminent as the guerrillas seized or besieged strategic army outposts on the town's outskirts, a spokesperson and members of the KNU said Monday. Myawaddy, in Kayin state, is Myanmar's most active trading post with Thailand, and its fall would be the latest in a series of shock defeats suffered by the army since last October, when an alliance of three other ethnic rebel groups launched an offensive in the country's northeast. Over the past five months, the army has been routed in northern Shan state, where it conceded control of several border



Members of the Karen National Liberation Army and People's Defense Force examine two arrested soldiers after they captured an army outpost, in the southern part of Myawaddy township in Kayin state, Myanmar, March 11, 2024.

crossings, in Rakhine state in the west, and is under growing attack elsewhere. The military government under Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has acknowledged it is under pressure, and recently introduced conscription to boost its ranks. The nationwide conflict in Myanmar began after the army ousted the elected government of Aung San

Suu Kyi in February 2021 and suppressed widespread nonviolent protests that sought a return to democratic rule. Three residents of Myawaddy town, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they fear being arrested by either warring side, told The Associated Press by phone that they had heard no sounds of

the fighting outside since Sunday afternoon. They said most residents were working as usual, while others were preparing to flee to Mae Sot, just across the border in Thailand. Two of them said they had not seen any members of the government's security forces since Sunday. The situation was highlighted Sunday night when a

Associated Press

Myanmar plane made an unscheduled flight to Mae Sot from Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city. Thai media reported that the plane had received permission from Thai authorities to evacuate people fleeing Myawaddy. It was not clear if those fleeing, described as military and civil servants loyal to Myanmar's military government, had already crossed into Thailand over the river that marks the border. Thailand's Foreign Ministry on Monday confirmed that approval was given for three flights on a Yangon-Mae Sot route to transport passengers and cargo, one each day on Sunday through Tuesday. Myanmar's government later canceled its requests for the remaining two flights. The Thai government was closely monitoring the situation along the border, and is ready to take all necessary measures to maintain peace and order, and to keep the people along the border safe, the Thai ministry said. In times of fighting along the frontier, Thailand has generally granted temporary shelter to Myanmar villagers. □

# Haiti police recover hijacked cargo ship in rare victory after 5-hour shootout with gangs

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Haiti's National Police agency says that it has recovered a hijacked cargo ship laden with rice following a gunbattle with gangs that lasted more than five hours. Two police officers were injured and an undetermined number of gang members were killed in the shootout that occurred Saturday off the coast of the capital, Port-au-Prince, authorities said in a statement. It was a rare victory for an underfunded police department that has struggled to quell gang violence following a spate of attacks that began Feb. 29.

Police said in the statement Sunday that those responsible for the hijacking were members of two gangs, named the 5 Seconds and the Taliban gang. They said gunmen seized the transport ship Magalie on Thursday as it departed the port of Varreux. Radio Télé Métropole reported that the gangs kidnapped everyone aboard the ship and stole some 10,000 sacks of rice out of the 60,000 sacks it was carrying. The ship was headed to the northern coastal city of Cap-Haitien. Also on Sunday, online news site Radio graphie reported that the Taliban

gang used a front loader to demolish a police station in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Canaan where at least four police officers were killed in a recent attack. The station was no longer operational. Gang violence continued on Monday, with police using megaphones to order the evacuation of the Champ de Mars area near the National Palace in downtown Port-au-Prince as heavy gunfire erupted nearby. The most recent gunbattle between police and gangs comes more than a month after gunmen began targeting key government

infrastructure. They have burned down multiple police stations, opened fire on the main international

airport that remains closed and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates. □



A National Police officer patrols an intersection in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, April 6, 2024.

Associated Press



## Blackstone Beach



Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something

different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern



part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park

your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not ad-

vised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

## Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

### Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also

possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

### Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours





## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



**ST. CRUZ —** The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educa-

tional and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.



### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

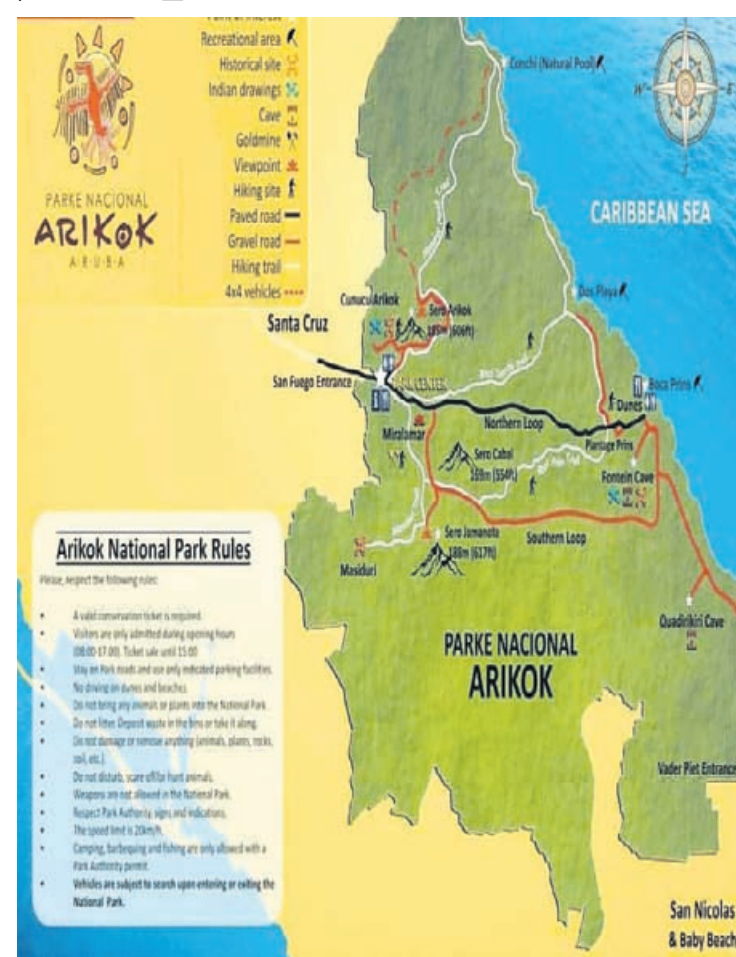
The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

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## Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

### Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and

cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

### Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their sur-

vival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

### Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

### Conew (cottontail rabbit,



### *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The

young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>



## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

**ORANJESTAD** - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular

battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the is-

land's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00



am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this

tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! ☐



## Episode CXV 115 - Archaeological Collection

Our island experiences as never before an enormous challenges in keeping its cultural authenticity intact in fighting back neoliberal progressive incursions when it comes to the protection its historical architecture, archaeological sites and objects of tangible and intangible cultural heritage significance.

We at Etnia Nativa exclaim for conscious consideration and share awareness by showing its archaeological salvage collection of past destructions that otherwise have been lost forever. Objects belonging to different time periods of our island's prehistorical heritage, Paleolithic as well as the Neolithic era. There are great differences between one another.

Nomadic Paleolithic traf-



ficking between islands and the mail land, who survived on hunting and gathering, while the Neolithic community that followed consisted also of sea going tribes, but dominating the art of ceramics while being an agro-sedentary society. The material legacy of our Paleolithic societies includes human as well as animal bone materials, ivory, horns, works in stone,

shells and possibly rock art. It is indicative that family groups where organized in matriarchal clans, sustaining themselves by hunting, fishing and gathering of fruits and shell fish. They followed the stars and where engaged in cultural artistic ceremonial activities.

When we talk about Paleolithic people visited Aruba we should consider to

imagine a time when hunting mega fauna was a way of life on main land South America today's Venezuela, going back at least 30,000 Yrs. People that came from the North crossing Meso American and island hopping to reach here. The Neolithic or the New Stone era, was a term coined by J. Lubbock in 1865 to refer to the cultural stage that developed from around 10,000 BCE until 3,000 BCE. There is no doubt that the Neolithic was and is one of the most decisive stages in our long history.

The sedentary society of the Neolithic period built neighbourhoods using branches and straw to cover the roofs of houses by placing a layer of mud on top of the straw to give it more consistency against the elements. Walls of

dwelling used mud, straw and tree trunks. Also during the Neolithic period, they continued to make stone instruments and tools, but these were smoothly polished. As raw materials, flint and quartzite known as chert and granite will be used, and two new materials will appear: diabas and basalt.

The Neolithic period implied a gradual not sudden cultural change, it's divided into stages according to the level of sophistication achieved in agriculture, architecture and ceramics.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etniana03@gmail.com or WhatsApp +297 592-2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. ☐



**Article by: Etnia Nativa**

**Whatsapp us +297 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience**

**Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels**





## Did you know about...

# Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then



you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The

basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Caesar's land
- 6 Shaving need
- 11 Shark's home
- 12 Battery end
- 13 Overly touchy
- 15 Junior, to senior
- 16 Take the prize
- 17 Twisty turn
- 18 Trait carriers
- 20 "Aladdin" villain
- 23 Limerick part
- 27 Cain's father
- 28 Authentic
- 29 Goes a bout
- 31 Club money
- 32 Parsley unit
- 34 Soak up
- 37 Charged particle
- 38 Enjoy the slopes
- 41 Stupid
- 44 Follow as a result
- 45 Big wave
- 46 Castle surrounders
- 47 Like some ales

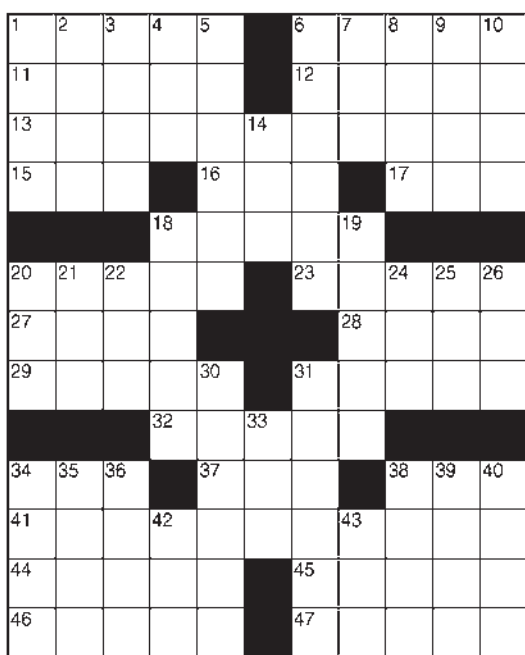
## DOWN

- 1 Young ones
- 2 Canyon sound
- 3 Rider's strap
- 4 Sprinted
- 5 Reply
- 6 Oscar winner
- 7 — Arbor, Michigan
- 8 District
- 9 Lofty poems
- 10 Some wines
- 14 Family
- 18 Toy store section
- 19 Sign of indifference



Yesterday's answer

- 20 Quick punch
- 21 Hoopla
- 22 Long-distance copy
- 24 Hankering
- 25 Seething
- 26 Overhead trains
- 30 Big nails
- 31 End
- 33 Use oars
- 34 Rose part
- 35 Cry of distress
- 36 Tuscany city
- 38 Dance unit
- 39 Brown seaweed
- 40 With no particular reason
- 42 Use scissors
- 43 Binary base



4-9

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-9

## CRYPTOQUOTE

MTD ZNDUYH FRZ WMAG RB  
ORZB VUBF BFG ZMSB  
ORTHFBGD MS RNDUO ZTYZ RYK  
ZFRKMV MS RNDUO ZFMVGDZ.

— QXDMY WROKVGGO ZAUBF  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SUN IS GONE,  
BUT I HAVE A LIGHT. — KURT COBAIN

## Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 8 - Apr 14 2024

TUE	09	SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	I	1
WED	10	CARNIVAL MAGIC	07.00	15.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN PRIMA	10.00	20.00	C	1
		MARELLA VOYAGER	08.00	20.00	I	1
THU	11	MSC DIVINA	07.00	14.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
FRI	12	CARNIVAL PRIDE	09.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	10.00	20.00	I	1
SAT	13	NORWEGIAN JADE	07.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	16	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	17	ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SAT	20	NORWEGIAN PRIMA	10.00	19.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Supermarket hours**  
Supermarket hours may



vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

## TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

## TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

## AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

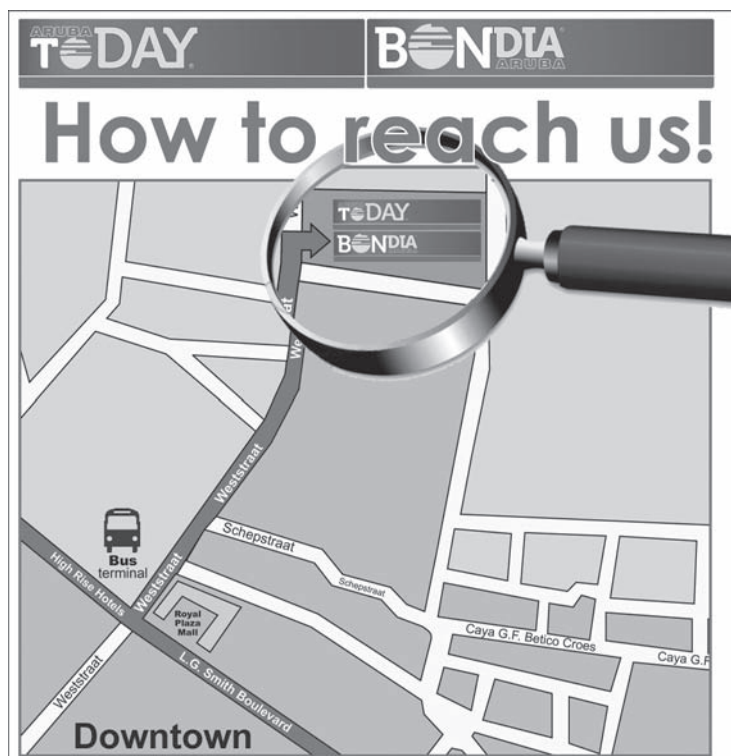
Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

## General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



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# Millennial Money: Why adding a child as an authorized user might not help their credit

By **LAUREN SCHWAHN**  
of NerdWallet

As parents, we want the best for our children: health, happiness — and hardy credit. Having a strong credit profile can determine whether your kid gets approved for a loan or how much they'll pay for car insurance when they're grown. But establishing credit for someone with no credit history is challenging. A common workaround is for parents to add their children as authorized users on their credit card accounts. Credit checks aren't required, and the user can quickly piggyback on the primary cardholder's credit history. But this arrangement isn't always the right move. Here's what to know about the potential limitations of adding your kid as an authorized user and alternative ways they can build credit.

## THEY MIGHT BE TOO YOUNG TO REAP THE BENEFITS

If you're hoping to boost your child's credit before they even learn to tell time, you could face roadblocks. For one, your kid may not qualify for authorized user status. While some card issuers don't have age restrictions, others require a minimum age of 13 or



Several VISA and MASTER credit cards are shown in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.  
Associated Press

older. Even if you can add your child, the issuer may not report their account details to the credit bureaus. Some issuers allow kids as young as 13 to become authorized users but only report credit information for those age 18 and older. It's wise to ask your credit card company how authorized user arrangements work.

## MISUSE CAN LEAD TO DAMAGED CREDIT

Being an authorized user

doesn't guarantee improved credit. "Same as the primary account holder, it can affect your credit positively or negatively, depending on how the card is used," says Bruce McClary, senior vice president of membership and communications at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. If you have a record of on-time payments and don't use too much available credit, that can generate or help your

kid's credit score. But your credit and your child's can suffer if either person uses the account unfavorably. Ultimately, it's up to the parent to keep the account in good standing.

"When you add someone as an authorized user, that's what they are. They're authorized to use the card but they are not legally bound to pay the bill. You are legally bound to pay the bill," says Julie Beckham, an accredited financial counsel-

or and financial educator in the Boston area. You don't need to give your kid the credit card. As long as the primary cardholder keeps their account open and active, the authorized user's credit will share the effects. If you give your child the card, set some ground rules. Talk about when it's OK to use the card, how much they're allowed to spend and who will make the payments. Some credit card companies let you place spending limits for authorized users. Removing your kid as an authorized user can undo damage to their credit if the arrangement goes wrong.

## AUTHORIZED USER STATUS MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH FOR FUTURE LENDERS

Some lenders don't take authorized user accounts into consideration when reviewing credit applications or give them much weight. "If you're a lender and you're looking at someone and you see the designation that they're an authorized user rather than the primary account holder, it's just telling you that this person did not have to go through a credit approval process to have access to that account," McClary says. □

# Toyota will oversee model certification at subsidiary Daihatsu after safety testing scandal

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**  
AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japanese automaker Toyota will over-



Daihatsu President Masahiro Inoue speaks during a press conference in Tokyo Monday, April 8, 2024.

Associated Press

see model certification at its subsidiary Daihatsu to regain trust among dealers, customers and workers after a safety testing scandal, Daihatsu's new president said Monday. Toyota Motor Corp. will take a leadership role in various areas, including product development and procurement, said Masahiro Inoue, who took the helm of Daihatsu in March.

"I have been spending each and every day, vowing to revive Daihatsu," said Inoue, who previously oversaw Toyota's business in South America.

His predecessor at Daihatsu

resigned after the allegations of widespread cheating on safety testing surfaced last year. A third-party review found violations, such as testing just one side of a car instead of both, had persisted for decades.

Production at Daihatsu Motor Co was halted by a government order until proper tests can be done and a system set up to prevent a recurrence.

Only some production has since resumed. Daihatsu is known for smaller "kei" cars and off-road vehicles.

No major accidents have been reported in connec-

tion with the cheating, but the news has raised questions about oversight at Daihatsu, which is wholly owned by Toyota.

Inoue apologized and said he has visited plants, dealers and suppliers, trying to encourage better communication among the ranks. Dealers have complained customers are waiting, but safety comes first before chasing market share, he added.

He acknowledged trying to deliver products quickly to keep up with demand was one reason for the misconduct. □



## NAIA all but bans transgender athletes from women's sports

By ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced a policy Monday that all but bans transgender athletes from competing in women's sports at its 241 mostly small colleges across the country.

The NAIA Council of Presidents approved the policy in a 20-0 vote at its annual convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The NAIA, which oversees some 83,000 athletes competing in more than 25 sports, is believed to be the first college sports organization to take such a step.

According to the transgender participation policy, all athletes may participate in NAIA-sponsored male sports but only athletes whose biological sex assigned at birth is female and have not begun hormone therapy will be allowed participate in women's sports.

A student who has begun hormone therapy may participate in activities such as workouts, practices and team activities, but not in interscholastic competition.

"With the exception of competitive cheer and competitive dance, the NAIA created separate categories for male and



Freed-Hardeman guard Quan Lax wears the championship banner after the NAIA men's national championship college basketball game against Langston, Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

female participants," the NAIA said. "Each NAIA sport includes some combination of strength, speed and stamina, providing competitive advantages for male student-athletes. As a result, the NAIA policy for transgender student-athletes applies to all sports except for competitive cheer and competitive dance, which are open to all students."

There is no known number of transgender athletes at the high school and col-

lege levels, though it is believed to be small. The topic has nonetheless become a hot-button issue among conservative groups and others who believe transgender athletes should not be allowed to compete on girls' and women's sports teams.

"The NAIA understands that legal action being taken to challenge the policy is a possibility, but this policy is one our membership and board felt like was the right decision," the NAIA said in

a statement to The Associated Press.

Shiwali Patel, senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center, said her organization was outraged by the NAIA policy.

"This is unacceptable and blatant discrimination that not only harms trans, nonbinary and intersex individuals, but limits the potential of all athletes," Patel said in a statement.

"It's important to recognize that these discriminatory policies don't en-

hance fairness in competition. Instead, they send a message of exclusion and reinforce dangerous stereotypes that harm all women."

Last month, more than a dozen current and former college athletes filed a federal lawsuit against the NCAA, accusing the sports governing body for more than 500,000 athletes of violating their rights by allowing transgender women to compete in women's sports.

Hours after the NAIA announcement, the NCAA released a statement: "College sports are the premier stage for women's sports in America and the NCAA will continue to promote Title IX, make unprecedented investments in women's sports and ensure fair competition for all student-athletes in all NCAA championships."

At least 24 states have laws barring transgender women and girls from competing in certain women's or girls sports competitions.

The Biden administration originally planned to release a new federal Title IX rule the law forbids discrimination based on sex in education addressing both campus sexual assault and transgender athletes. □

## Novak Djokovic eclipses Roger Federer's record for oldest man ranked No. 1 in tennis

**LONDON (AP)** — Novak Djokovic has surpassed another tennis record once held by Roger Federer, becoming the oldest man to be ranked No. 1 in the ATP Tour's computerized rankings.

Djokovic is 36 he turns 37 next month and is now older than Federer was on his last day atop the rankings in June 2018. Monday gives Djokovic 420 total weeks at that spot, extending another mark Federer (who was there for 310 weeks) had at one time before Djokovic broke it.

Djokovic's 24 Grand Slam

singles titles also are the most by a man in tennis history and the most by anyone in the Open era, which began in 1968. Federer broke Pete Sampras' men's record of 14 major championships and retired with 20, before Rafael Nadal (now with 22) and Djokovic overtook him.

Djokovic is entered this week in the Monte Carlo Masters clay-court tournament as he prepares to defend his title at the French Open, where play begins on May 26. It will be Djokovic's first competitive action since he split from coach

Goran Ivanisevic.

He has held onto No. 1 since returning there most recently last September after winning the U.S. Open. Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner remained at No. 2 in Monday's rankings, followed by Carlos Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev, all in the same places as a week ago.

There was no movement in the WTA women's top five, either, with Iga Swiatek at No. 1, Aryna Sabalenka at No. 2 and Coco Gauff, Elena Rybakina and Jessica Pegula next. □

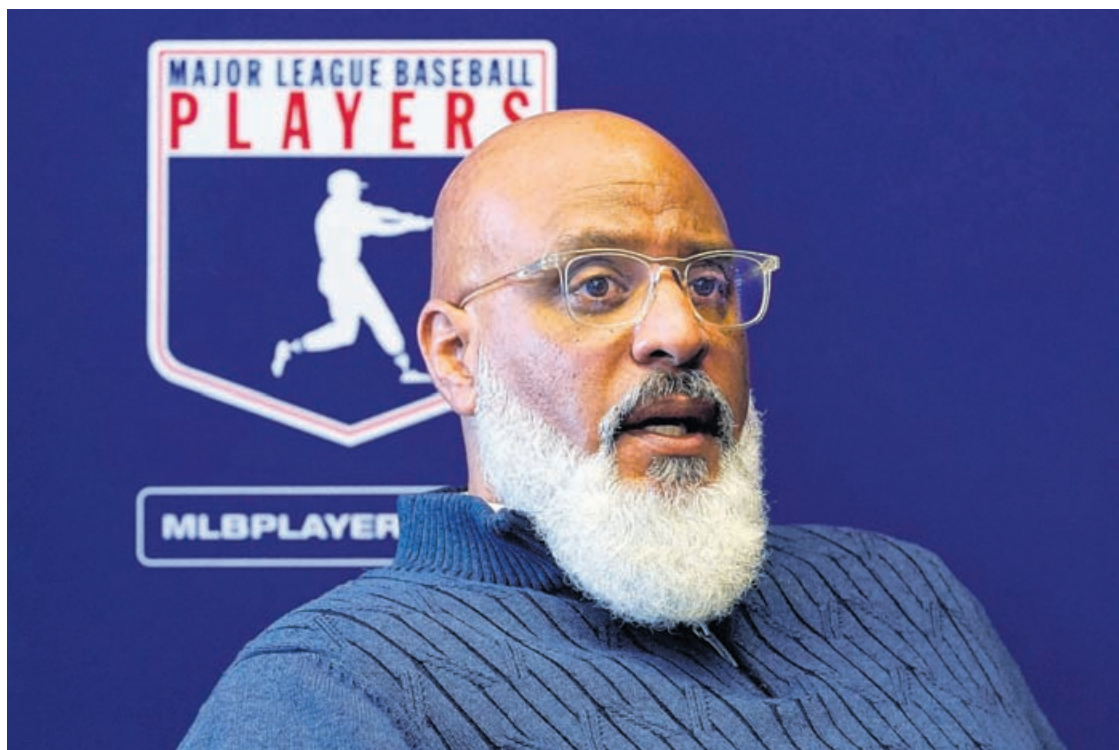


Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic smiles during a press conference after the screening of the documentary film about Croatian tennis legend Niki Pilic, former tennis player and former trainer of Novak Djokovic, Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Associated Press



## Gerrit Cole says MLB, union bickering over pitch clock sounds like 'divorced parents'



Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark answers a question during a news conference in New York on March 11, 2022.

Associated Press

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole faulted Major League Baseball and the players' association for bickering over the pitch clock last weekend, comparing their behavior to divorced parents. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner and former member of the union's eight-man executive subcommittee spoke about the union's statement Saturday that questioned whether the clock caused pitcher injuries and MLB's response dismissing the concerns. Cole has been sidelined since spring training by right elbow inflammation. "I'm just frustrated it's a combative issue," he said. "It's like, OK, we have divorced parents and the child's misbehaving and we can't get on the same page to get the child to behave, not that the players are misbehaving, but we have an issue here and we need to get on the same page to at least try and fix it."

Cole spoke for about 20 minutes after throwing for the first time since he was diagnosed with the elbow injury. The 33-year-old right-hander is on the 60-day injured list and hopes to return in June. After address-

ing reporters, he went to the dugout to watch the solar eclipse. Players' association head Tony Clark in a statement Saturday claimed a shorter pitch clock — which MLB instituted despite player opposition — has contributed to a series of pitcher injuries. Cleveland's Shane Bieber, Atlanta's Spencer Strider, the New York Yankees' Jonathan Loáisiga, Miami's Eury Pérez and Oakland's Trevor Gott are among the pitchers recently diagnosed with elbow injuries.

MLB said the union's claim "ignores the empirical evidence and much more significant long-term trend, over multiple decades, of velocity and spin increases that are highly correlated with arm injuries."

The league said it is undergoing a research study into causes of increased injuries. It cited an unpublished analysis by Johns Hopkins that "found no evidence to support that the introduction of the pitch clock has increased injuries" and "no evidence that pitchers who worked quickly ... or sped up their pace were more likely to sustain an injury than those who did not."

Cole said players feel "caught in the middle" of the squabble and maintained Manfred and MLB

should not dismiss the players' concerns. He said he felt he was gassed early in some starts last year because of the clock and would like MLB to show "empathy." "Rob cares about the players. He's supposed to care about players, he's supposed to really deeply care about them, like that is his job," Cole said. "I don't know if he wrote that statement, I don't know who wrote that statement, but did anyone put a name on it? At least Tony did."

Cole said MLB and the union need to listen to and speak with each other.

"It's shortsighted," he said. "We are going to really understand the effects of what the pitch clock is maybe five years down the road, but to dismiss it out of hand I didn't think that was helpful to the situation. I think the players are obviously the most important aspect of this industry and this product and the care of the players should be of utmost importance to both sides. MLB did nothing illegal by pushing the pitch clock. They have unilateral rights to create whatever rule they wanted to."

"I know it's not black and white like both of the statements," Cole added. He said players felt "our opinion has not been consid-

ered" and termed Clark's remarks "a combative statement" that was "narrow" and "doesn't include all the other factors that may have also contributed to it, as well."

MLB instituted a pitch clock for the 2023 season set at 15 seconds with nobody on and 20 seconds when there was a baserunner. The average time of a nine-inning game dropped to 2 hours, 40 minutes, a 24-minute decrease to its shortest since 1985. The 11-man competition committee decided in December to cut the clock to 18 seconds with baserunners, a change that was opposed by the four players on the body.

Cole said the sport has

evolved because of technology in ways that are damaging to pitchers' health.

"We have the ability to teach more break and teach new pitches and we can do it within one month," he said. "But what kind of effect does that have on a pitcher going forward, like in terms of one year out, two years out, three years out? We don't really know. What we do know is when guys were more healthy, we weren't able to go to a pitching lab and concoct a new pitch and then use that at a 35% clip for the next six months and only have practiced it two months before we roll it out." □



NCAA President Charlie Baker speaks to reporters Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

## NCAA president hopeful women's teams rewarded for appearance in tournament like the men

By **DOUG FEINBERG**  
AP Basketball Writer

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Despite huge TV ratings and unprecedented attention for women's basketball, teams in the NCAA Tournament don't cash in like their male counterparts.

NCAA President Charlie Baker is hoping that will change as early as next season.

Under the current system, men's teams that make the tournament are rewarded with financial performance dollars — known as units. It has been estimated that teams in this year's men's field can make millions, the value increasing the deeper they go in the tournament. While nothing has been approved yet, Baker said the finance committee is targeting the 2024-25 sea-

son to give women's teams financial compensation. The NCAA signed a new eight-year deal with ESPN worth \$115 million per year for 40 sports.

"We just signed a new contract with ESPN and women's basketball is a big and important part of that deal," Baker said Sunday prior to tipoff of the women's national championship game won by South Carolina. "It will also send a huge signal to women's basketball generally about the fact you play in the tournament, you do well, you will benefit financially as well as in the other ways."

The NCAA still needs to figure out how units would be distributed, how much they would be worth and how conferences would be involved. □